Geography Alive: Surviving Bushfires (Lesson 7)

Lesson 7: Surviving Bushfires

Content focus:

In this lesson students develop an awareness of the actions they can take to protect themselves, other people and property in a bushfire emergency. It includes a focus of the actions individuals can take as responsible citizens.

Resources:

- Youtube videos:
 - Bush Fire Fact Travel smart [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6WJJe2Y9xQ] (58 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact What to wear in a bushfire [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zbl1qieYSgU] (54 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact Home defence equipment [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk7qIOKh-Gc] (60 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact Know your risk [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUn7QFZdDBg] (60 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact Preparing your yard [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM5pPqSWem0] (51 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact Make your bush fire survival plan [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWaAR0ZcdGI] (63 seconds)
 - Bush Fire Fact Preparing your land [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yd8-WLI7Qbk] (1 minute, 23 seconds)
- Worksheet 6: Surviving Bushfires

Key inquiry question:

 What do we need to do in order to protect life and property in the event of a bushfire?

Outcomes:

A student:

- demonstrates an awareness of the precautions they can take in protect life and property if caught in a bushfire emergency either indoors of outdoors.
- identifies the precautions people can take to protect their homes in the event of a bushfire.

Lesson sequence:

- Step 1: Introduce students to the theme of the lesson Surviving bushfires. Use exposition and questioning to ascertain prior learning.
- Step 2: Ask students to study Figure 1 on Worksheet 7. View Bush Fire Fact Travel Smart and Bush Fire Fact What to wear in a bushfire. As a class, discuss the actions you can take to protect yourself in the event of a bushfire both indoors and outdoors.
- Step 3: Ask students to study Figure 2. Direct them to write a story. My family is caught in a bushfire while out driving. What should we do to protect ourselves?
- Step 4: Ask students to study Figure 3 & 4. View the Youtube clips: Bush Fire Fact Home defence equipment, Bush Fire Fact Know your risk, Bush Fire Fact Preparing your yard, Bush Fire Fact Make your bush fire survival plan and Bush Fire Fact Preparing your land. Have your students select either a suburban or rural-based property (which ever is the most relevant). Have them draw an annotated illustration of their home and highlight the ways in which they can protect it.
- Step 5: Project-based activity.

Students are asked to complete ONE of the following:

- a. Write a instruction manual outlining the actions you would encourage people to take in the event of a bushfire. Include procedures for: choosing appropriate clothing to wear; finding a safe place to stay during a bushfire; and ways of protecting your house in a bushfire. Or
- b. Prepare a radio talk outlining fire safe procedures to carry out in the event of a bushfire.
- c. Study Figures 3 and 4 and then write a letter to a neighbour outlining the actions they could take to protect their home in a bushfire.